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Montréal Communiqué

May 28, 1970

RECORD BUDGET: Directors of the Metropolitan Board of the Montreal YMCA have approved a record high budget of more than $2.8 million for the year starting June 1, 1970. The total covers all phases of city-wide operation, both branch-based and outreach.

Major emphasis will be on specific needs that have already been identified. These include:
(1) The placement of additional youth and women's programmers on branch staffs (2) expansion of physical education activities (3) the deployment of more workers on detached service with alienated youth (4) the further establishment of drop-in centres, youth clinics and counselling services.

MONTREALER NAMED NATIONAL Y PRESIDENT: Holbrook R. Davis, chairman of the Montreal Downtown YMCA and Alcan Aluminium's Chief Employee Relations Officer, has been elected president of the National Council of YMCAs of Canada.

He suggested in accepting the post that the fuller involvement of youth in setting policy and planning programs might help strip away the layers of complacency still insulating many adults from some of the deep-rooted problems gnawing at society today.

Young people have often proved themselves quicker than adults to recognize problems and initiate action, particularly against social inequities, poverty, umemployment, alienation and dehumanization.

Unfortunately, he commented, many young people don't appear to realize that many current shortcomings were inherited from preceding generations. Frustrated by seeming indifference, inertia or ignorance, they lash out impatiently in attempts to destroy totally so they can rebuild from the ground up.

This fosters antagonism. If attitudes are not to harden--become more polarized--young people and adults will have to become more open-minded and sensitive to each other's needs.

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YOUTH INVOLVEMENT A 'MUST': Outgoing National YMCA President John J. Carson also insisted that the energy, social consciousness and dedication of young people must be utilized if the Y is to meet the challenge of the '70s.

The young people the Y is hoping to attract may have their own mores, their own life style, even their own language. But they must be met at least half-way, with tolerance and understanding, he urged.

"In recent years, we have been debating the meaning that should be given to the "C" in our Movement's name. I believe that it is at least equally crucial for us to be quite certain about the significance of the "Y".

FITNESS TESTING: Female members of the Northern Electric Employees' Club are demanding equal time, and getting it. Over the past few weeks, the club subsidized a series of fitness-testing clinics for its men. They were run through in Downtown Y's testing lab. A similar program for the girls has been tentatively scheduled for July.

MILES FOR MILLIONS: Fifteen YMCA fitness program participants took part in Montreal's recent Miles for Millions walk. They jogged the entire 28 miles, completing the course in under four hours.

WATCH THIS GIRL: Blanche Putzel, the gal known as 'Sam', has been appointed a director of the board of the Canadian Mental Health Association. She's a member of the Y's Metropolitan Detached Work Unit, serving in the West Island area.

CAMPING: A total of almost 500 boys and girls have been enrolled to spend part of this summer at Kamp Kanawana. Another 24 boys have been signed up for Les Voyageurs canoe adventures. Pre-registrations is also high for the day camp programs operated by different Y branches in the city.

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